

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1 1. In Riga in 1947-49 most streets had the old names. [REDACTED] only one
25X1 Communist-sounding name, Sarkanāarmijas iela, formerly Aizsargu iela. In
25X1 1951, several streets had different names, including Gertrudes iela, and
Marijas iela. [REDACTED] Riga seemed a cleaner
city in 1950 and 1951 than in 1948-49. The gardens seemed better kept and
there were more flowers in the gardens and squares. The street leading to
Meza Park, Koknases prospekts, had flowers on the sides of the street, and for
illumination. There were arc-lamps which were not there in 1948-49. On the
streets one saw more neatly-dressed people than in 1948-49, and even some ex-
pensive furs.

2. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] shift the grain with
25X1 shovels, and also to unload the grain from railroad cars. It was done on a
25X1 24-hour basis in 8-hour shifts. [REDACTED]
25X1 [REDACTED] Acceptance for the second shift depended on the brigadier.
25X1 There were always many people offering their services, since it was seasonal
25X1 work and paid well. Among the workers there were Soviets and Latvians, mostly
25X1 women. Physically it was possible to bear the work, since during the night the
25X1 brigadier was not always present and the workers were able to sleep for a while.
25X1 For eight hours' work [REDACTED] paid [REDACTED]
25X1 per shift 33.50 to 60 rubles. [REDACTED]
25X1 [REDACTED]

3. In several parts of Riga lived mostly Soviets, as in Mezaparks and in the central
part of the town. Old people on pensions, single women, and women with children
generally occupied one- or two-room apartments, sometimes in cellars. However,

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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they always were separate apartments with a separate entrance. The monthly rent paid for a one-room apartment was 22 rubles around Pernavas iela. In another case, a two-room apartment in Tallinas iela cost 50 rubles per month. The apartments were crowded; a mother, two grown-up children, and a small child were living in one room and a kitchen. In a two-room apartment lived a married woman with her husband, her sister, and her grandfather. A three-room apartment was occupied by a joiner, his wife, and three children, with a total family income above 2000 rubles per month. In several one- and two-room apartments there were bathrooms. After the large-scale deportations in the fall of 1948 or spring of 1949, many houses and apartments had been sealed and locked. Those belonged to people who had been deported. Source visited the one-family houses in Meza parks. In Riga there were boarding-houses for farmers visiting town, called lebraucama vieta, and the usual price was 5 rubles per night. It was necessary to present one's documents to obtain lodging in such a house.

4. [redacted] at the Central Market. In 1948 [redacted] paid 60 kopeks for a glass of tea with sugar, and in 1950 1.75 rubles for a bowl of soup. In 1950 and 1951 [redacted] prices were generally lower than in 1948-49, but butter still cost 28 rubles per kilogram.

5. Clothing could be purchased on the market, where there were special stalls for clothing. These stalls were run by Jews. In 1948 there were also Latvians in these stalls, but more and more Jews came and the Latvians disappeared from this business. People in Riga were generally well clothed, and in 1951 the general picture was even better than in 1948-49. In 1948 furs were seldom seen, but in 1951 there were many women wearing fur coats, and even expensive coats were not a rarity. These were mostly worn by Soviet women. Generally the prices in 1950-51 were lower than in 1948-49.

6. The railroad tickets at the Riga railroad station could be obtained at the ticket offices in the hall of the Rigas Jurmala station and outside of the hall from the street in the same offices. There were no difficulties in obtaining a ticket and no travel order was requested. Long-distance tickets could be obtained in the office in Marijas Street not far from the main railroad station. A ticket [redacted] to Tartu, Estonia, in August 1950, cost 80 rubles for 1½ fares on the fast train. There were two fast trains from Riga: one to Tallinn and the other to Vilnius. These trains were diesels, and the carriages were connected. The color was silver-gray and the Germans called these trains Zepp. They were more expensive than the usual trains. The train for Tallinn departed Riga at 1215 and took four hours to reach Tartu. It stopped only in Cēsis and Valka. The train back from Tallinn or Tartu arrived in Riga at 2245; the duration of the trip from Tartu to Riga was four hours.

7. [redacted] another [redacted] became ill in the winter of 1948/49 and was bedridden. The landlady telephoned to some hospital, and the woman was taken by ambulance to a hospital across the Daugava, in the area served by streetcar No. 8. She was examined and X-rayed, and then sent to another hospital. During the first examination spots were discovered on her lungs, and finally she was admitted to a tuberculosis sanatorium. It was on the outskirts of Riga, and reached by bus. This sanatorium consisted of wooden barracks, and the woman was in a ward where there were six beds. The doctor in charge was a Soviet professor. He was very kind and treated the woman with all possible care. She received many injections and was also treated with oxygen. She spent four months there and then was released as cured. In the corridor opposite the ward there was a radio loudspeaker, and around it other patients gathered and sang. There were Soviets and Latvians as patients, and probably only the one German. She was treated well and had to pay nothing for any of the hospital treatment.

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25X1 In 1949 [] expecting a baby, and [] she went to the local hospital and
 25X1 was admitted to the maternity ward without any objection or order from a doctor.
 25X1 She spent ten days in the hospital, as did all patients having no complications,
 25X1 and was treated the same way as Lithuanians and Soviets. After she was released,
 25X1 her baby got pneumonia and was hospitalized for four months. According to
 25X1 regulations, the mother had to stay with the baby, and [] was well treated.
 25X1 She had to pay nothing for either one of the hospitalization periods, and even
 25X1 the medicine was free. Lithuanians and Soviets had to pay nothing while in the
 25X1 hospital, but had to buy the medicine. The medical care was up-to-date and
 25X1 generally good. The personnel was Lithuanian, except one doctor who was a Soviet
 25X1 woman. There were two other doctors in the maternity ward, both women. []
 25X1 received from the hospital a certificate concerning the birth of the child and
 25X1 did not bother to go for registration elsewhere. After a while, militia sent
 25X1 her an invitation to go to the Registrar's Office, but she still did not bother to
 25X1 do that. Then one day militiamen came and took her to the Registrar's Office
 25X1 for registration of the child.

8. [] visiting farms between Yelgava
 [] and Joniskis, Lithuania. []
 25X1 [] a man came along and started to talk [] After he
 25X1 heard that she was a German from East Prussia, the man stated that he was also
 25X1 a German from East Prussia. He was about 28 years of age and had been a captain
 25X1 in the German army, but had escaped from a PW camp in Leningrad years ago and
 25X1 fled to Latvia, where he contacted partisans and joined them. He said that many
 25X1 Latvians pretend to be Communists or Communist supporters and did so only to be able
 25X1 to help the partisans. He said that in the towns there were many supporters of
 25X1 partisans among the students, within the militia, and even the MVD. In October
 25X1 1948 [] went from Riga to help with the potato harvest near the railroad
 25X1 station Cenas, between Riga and Yelgava, []
 25X1 [] partisans had been seen in the
 25X1 vicinity recently.

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